

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 024960
ORIGIN INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-01 SSO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00
SP-02 PM-05 USIE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
INRE-00 (ISO) R

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-----096765 310521Z /14

O R 310319Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 024960

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:NATO, UR, PINT

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV'S HEALTH

REF: (A) USNATO 913 (NOTAL); (B) BONN 1470 (NOTAL)

1. MEMBERS OF PONOMAREV'S PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION
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SPREAD WORD DURING WASHINGTON VISIT THAT BREZHNEV
HAS RECOVERED FROM HIS ILLNESS AND IS NOW RESTING AT
HUNTING PRESERVE NEAR MOSCOW. THEY ALSO PREDICTED
THAT HE WOULD BE BACK ON DUTY IN TWO WEEKS. HOWEVER,
WE SUSPECT THAT HE WILL BE WORKING ONLY PART-TIME AND
THAT SOVIET REGARD FOR WEST GERMAN SENSITIVITIES SHOULD
PRECLUDE DEMANDING OR NUMEROUS PUBLIC APPEARANCES FOR

AT LEAST THE NEXT THREE WEEKS.

2. WHEN IT COMES, BREZHNEV'S REAPPEARANCE SHOULD ALLAY RUMORS OF HIS IMMINENT DEMISE SUCH AS YUGOSLAV ACCOUNT (REF B). ACCOUNT OF LEADERSHIP "FACTIONS" STRIKES US AS PLAUSIBLE.

3. BREZHNEV'S PERSONAL CARDIAC PHYSICIAN, DEPMIN OF HEALTH YE. CHAZOV, PLANS TO VISIT US DURING FEBRUARY 5-12, WHICH SUGGESTS THAT BREZHNEV IS CONSIDERED BY THE SOVIETS TO BE OUT OF MEDICAL DANGER AT THIS TIME.

4. MISSION MAY DRAW AS APPROPRIATE ON ABOVE IN POLADS IN RESPONSE TO CANADIAN QUERY (REF A).

VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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